

Yosemite Timeline

- 1855 James Hutchings organized the first tourist party to visit Yosemite Valley. Thomas Ayres, an artist with the group, drew the first known sketches of Yosemite Valley.
- 1864 Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were set aside by the federal government as the first state park in the world.
- 1877 The Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company established the first organized stageline in Yosemite.
- 1881 The Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company had a tunnel cut through the Wawona Tree in the Mariposa Grove so stages could pass through it.
- 1890 Yosemite National Park was established on October 1st. The National Park didn't originally include Yosemite Valley or the Mariposa Grove, but encompassed a larger area around them.
- 1905 Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove are included as part of Yosemite National Park.
- 1907 The Yosemite Valley Railroad begins operation from Merced to El Portal.
- 1913 Automobiles legally entered Yosemite National Park for the first time.
- 1914 Civilian rangers replaced U.S. Army cavalry units as park "protectors" in Yosemite. Autobuses replace horse drawn stages travelling into the park from El Portal.
- 1915 The fee to enter Yosemite National Park was \$5.00 per automobile.
- 1923 Construction of the O'Shaughnessy dam began which formed the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir on the Tuolumne River.
- 1926 The All-Year Highway (Highway 140) is completed. This eventually resulted in abandonment of the Yosemite Valley Railroad in 1945.
- 1968 The Firefall is eliminated as an artificial attraction. During a Firefall glowing embers were pushed from the tip of Glacier Point and dropped 1,000 feet down below towards Yosemite Valley.
- 1969 The first prescribed burn is accomplished in Yosemite National Park in the Mariposa Grove. The Wawona Tunnel Tree falls over after a severe winter. The Glacier Point Hotel burns down.
- 1970 The free shuttlebus system is initiated in Yosemite Valley.
- 1980 The Yosemite General Management Plan is completed. The plan is a long-range planning document for the park.
- 1986 California Bighorn Sheep were first reintroduced into Yosemite.
- 1990 Yosemite celebrated its first 100 years as a national park. Major forest fires raked the park during August.
- 1997 The Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan is completed. The plan will carry out provisions of Yosemite's 1980 General Management Plan in Yosemite Valley.